

Listing of the Claims:

What is Claimed:

1-67. (Canceled)

68. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling access to digital content, the method comprising:

storing with a first computing device at least one license ~~a plurality of licenses~~ for authorizing use of the content, the at least one license ~~licenses~~ being defined from a ~~configurable~~ rule that is based at least in part on at least one of at least one user attribute and an attribute associated with the content item;

receiving with a second computing device a request to use the content;

determining with the second computing device whether or not the at least one license ~~of the plurality of licenses~~ authorizes the requested use of the content comprising:

comparing an entitlement requirement associated with the at least one license against at least one of:

an attribute of a user who has made the request; and

an attribute associated with the content item; and

evaluating at least one Boolean expression embodied by the rule;

responsive to said determination, authorizing ~~allowing~~ the requested use of the content if the at least one license ~~of the plurality of licenses~~ authorizes the requested use; and

providing with a third computing device an option to modify the at least one ~~of the user~~ attribute ~~attributes~~ to qualify for a license, responsive to the determining finding that ~~none of the~~ at least one license ~~plurality of licenses~~ authorizes the requested use.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the user attribute comprises the user's age.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the user attribute comprises the user's residence.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the user attribute comprises a payment method.

72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, wherein the at least one license ~~of the plurality of licenses~~ comprises at least one grant.

73. (Canceled)

74. (Canceled)

75. (Canceled)

76. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68 ~~claim 75~~, wherein the Boolean expression ~~expression~~ comprises at least one argument based on the at least one user attribute.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the requested use comprises playback.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the requested use comprises copying to a compact disc.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the requested use comprises copying to a digital video disc.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the requested use comprises copying to a hard-drive.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the requested use comprises downloading to a portable player.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the rule is dynamically reconfigurable.

83. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, wherein the at least one license ~~of the plurality of licenses~~ is dynamically reconfigurable.

84. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, wherein determining whether or not the at least one license ~~of the plurality of licenses~~ authorizes the requested use comprises determining whether or not a license grant has been obtained by a user who has made the request.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68 wherein providing information on how to qualify for a license comprises providing a user attribute that would allow authorization of the requested use.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68 wherein providing information on how to qualify for a license comprises providing an amount of money that, if received, would allow authorization of the requested use.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68 wherein the first and second computing devices are the same computing device.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68 wherein the first, second and third computing devices are the same computing device.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68 wherein the first and third computing devices are the same computing device.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68 wherein the second and third computing devices are the same computing device.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68 wherein the user attribute comprises a computing device unique identifier.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, further comprising:
providing with the third computing device an option to purchase a license, if none of the plurality of licenses authorizes the use.

93. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the Boolean expression comprises at least one argument that corresponds to at least one attribute of at least one user and/or associated with the content item.

94. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the Boolean expression comprises at least one attribute associated with the content item.

95. (New) The method of claim 68, further comprising more than one license.

96. (New) The method of claim 95, wherein the more than one licenses are associated in at least one license chain.

97. (New) The method of claim 96 comprising more than one license chain and wherein the more than one license chains are associated in a license matrix.

98. (New) The method of claim 96 wherein the at least one license chain corresponds to an indicator for a use of the content item.

99. (New) The method of claim 97 wherein the license matrix further comprises one or more failure messages associated with the one or more licenses.

100. (New) The method of claim 99 wherein at least one of the one or more failure messages are communicated to the user.

101. (New) The method of claim 95, wherein the licenses are grouped in accordance with different uses of the content item.

102. (New) The method of claim 101, wherein the licenses within each grouping of licenses are arranged according to a predetermined order.

103. (New) The method of claim 102, wherein the predetermined order comprises a hierarchical ordering.

104. (New) The method of claim 102, wherein the predetermined order comprises an ordering according to the breadth of grants associated with the licenses.

105. (New) The method of claim 102, wherein the predetermined order comprises an ordering based on the restrictiveness of the rules associated with the licenses.

106. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the at least one license is associated with one or more granted rights.

107. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the entitlement requirement comprises the Boolean expression.

108. (New) The method of claim 68, wherein the attribute of a user and/or associated with the content item is associated with a rating classification.

109. (New) A method for controlling access to digital content, the method comprising:

storing with a first computing device at least one license for authorizing use of the content, the licenses being defined from a rule that is based at least in part on at least one user attribute;

receiving with a second computing device a request to use the content;

determining with the second computing device whether or not the at least one license authorizes the requested use of the content;

responsive to said determination, authorizing the requested use of the content if the at least one license authorizes the requested use; and

providing with a third computing device an option to modify the at least one user attribute to qualify for a license, responsive to the determining finding that the at least one license authorizes the requested use.